Introduction of RF tags for baggages

442. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering introduction of Radio Frequency Identification tags on baggages being handled at international airports to prevent them from missing; and

(b) if so, by when it will be implemented at major international airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) It has not been made mandatory by the Government to have Radio Frequency Identification tags on baggages. However, some airlines are considering introducing this feature for baggage handling.

Revenue earned from ground handling work

†443. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private airlines which have been allowed to undertake ground handling work during the last three years; and

(b) the revenue earned by Government from it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No private airline has been allowed to undertake ground handling work for other airlines during the last three years. As per AAI (General Management), Entry for Ground Handling of Air Transport Services Regulations, 2000, an operator or carrier may carry out Ground Handling Services at airports only for their own flights.

(b) Does not arise.

Poor Maintenance of International Airports

444. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether maintenance of international airports in the country is very poor in comparison to international standards;

(b) whether Foreign tourists express displeasure and are dismayed at the facilities at international airports, especially in delhi; and

(c) the measures proposed to boost tourism by renovating airport roof and other places of the airports and providing other facilities of international standards?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Satisfactory maintenance of various passenger facilities at the airports being a continuous process is carried out in a regular and systematic manner.

(b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) conducts customer satisfaction survey at all international airports and major domestic airports to ascertain the satisfaction level of the passengers and other airports users, which also includes tourists. As per the survey conducted in 2004, the customer satisfaction level at the international airports was about 70% . Whenever specific complaints are received from passengers, these are attended to.

(c) AAI has launched the 'Airport Improvement Initiative' under which 25 airports including the 11 international airports have been identified for improving the aesthetics and house-keeping of the terminal buildings and cityside facilities. Government has also taken up restructuring of airports of Delhi and Mumbai through joint venture route to bring them at par with international standards besides modernisation and upgradation of twenty five Non-Metro airports.

Air misses

445. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of air misses during the last three months;

(b) the outcome of the enquiry in each case; and

(c) the steps taken to avoid air misses in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) A total of eight air misses have been reported to Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) since August, 2004. While investigations on three air misses have been completed, the investigation on remaining five air misses are yet to be completed by DGCA.

(b) In one incident the pilot did not adhere to flight level as assigned by Air Traffic Controller. In second incident "on the job trainee" issued wrong clearance to the aircraft. In third incident TCAS/RA warning apears to have trigered due to high closure rate of two aircraft.

(c) To avoid air misses, instruments like Minimum Safe Altitude Warning System in Radars, Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radars (MSSRs)